

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-5 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Amamori (US 2002/0125696A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the subject matter of claim 7, indicated as allowable, is now incorporated into claim 6 and its dependent claim 8.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 9-16 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of this, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7 to place it in condition for allowance along with dependent claim 8.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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